Friday, February 7, 2014

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Making grand plans for vibrant arts centre

Daring design pitched for arts & entertainment district PAGE 3

The Forest City is onto a Gooding thing

Cuba Gooding Jr. is coming to London to make a film PAGE 6

Most likely places to break out in a crash

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New Lightning lineup takes on 1st-place Express

Teams square off in first of back-to-back battles PAGE 19

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Our Sochi Six

London's Olympians are forces to be reckoned with as the world turns its focus to Russia SEE OUR STORY ON PAGES 4-5

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID VAN DKYE

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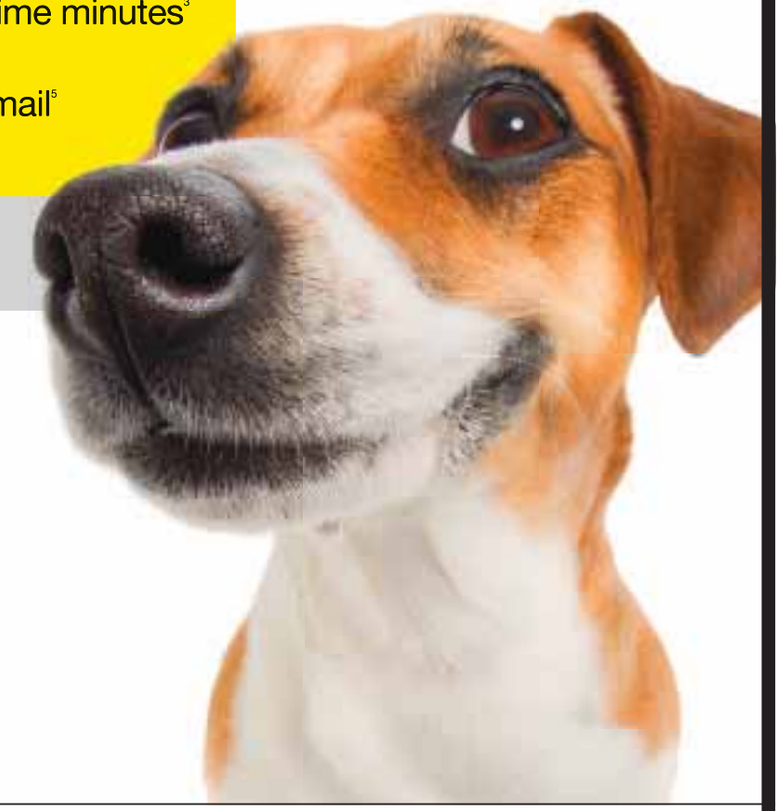

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At a glance

Key points of the Celebration Centre proposal:

- **Costs:** Total investment is $164,027,000, which includes $5 million to improve The Grand Theatre, $50,027,000 for the Celebration Centre, $100 million for the condos and hotel and $9 million, for a 300-spot underground parking facility for the Celebration Centre.
- **Funding:** $30 million in federal and provincial funding, $3.5 million from the community, $4.8 million from the sale of land, with the city being asked for $15 million in direct funding plus help with acquiring and demolishing Centennial Hall. The total cost to the city is set at $16.73 million, the rest is to come from the private sector.
- **Two towers:** The project depends on the private-sector element. York Developments has proposed two towers overlooking Victoria Park: one, on Princess Avenue, is a 14-storey tower of 200 units; The other is a 24-storey condo-hotel tower nearby on Wellington Street. Both would have retail space on the lower floors.
- **Economic benefit:** The proposal says the project will be worth more than $1.6 million per year in taxes, $10.5 million in development charges, yielding 1,268 construction jobs, 52 permanent jobs in the private developments, plus nine to 16 permanent full-time jobs and more than 50 part-time jobs in the cultural settings.

A drawing, taken from the Celebration Centre proposal, shows how the centre may look when finished. London City Hall is on the far right of the design while the hotel and performance hall at the far left sit on the current site of Centennial Hall. COURTESY OF STANTEC

$164-million arts vision revealed

Celebration Centre. Ambitious plan pitched for performing arts centre

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

The big vision for London's arts and entertainment scene has been revealed. And what an ambitious vision it is.

It calls for: Centennial Hall to be demolished and replaced with a new building called the Celebration Centre; a bigger, improved Grand Theatre, and linking the two, an arts and entertainment district designed to boost London's economy.

Plus, there's a $100-million condo-hotel development.

The aim is to have it ready in time for Canada's 150th anniversary in three years.

The plans by Music London and The Grand Theatre, in partnership with the City of London and the private sector, have been made public in a document to be presented to councillors on Monday.

"This initiative will both enhance the arts and entertainment offerings for London residents and visitors, and establish a vibrant and diversified arts and entertainment district in the downtown, significantly contributing to the area's capacity to be a vital destination and economic hub," says the written proposal.

For the first time, the project has private-sector partners.

York Developments is on board to take on the condo-hotel project, while Global Spectrum, the owner of Budweiser Gardens, has been named day-to-day manager of the Celebration Centre. Also named in the document as a partner is London-based company Ellis-Don.

The proposal will be presented at a special meeting of the investment and economic prosperity committee on Monday and its details will be examined in the coming months.

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This is widely believed to be the last Olympics for ice-dance partners Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, who have already been testing the ice in Sochi. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LONDON SENDS

To Russia with love.
Parents watch, wait as London Olympians prepare to shine

DAVE LANGFORD
london@metronews.ca

It's not only the Olympic hockey players who wanted to hear Steve Yzerman's voice on the other end of the phone.

The parents of Canada's men's hockey team also found his words meaningful. But mind you, the team had already been picked to go to Sochi.

Last week, Hockey Canada and the National Hockey League Players' Association held a conference call with the team's families to answer questions about the upcoming journey.

"Well, (team executive director) Stevie Yzerman kicked off the call by saying our mission is gold, which any great leader would say, and obviously we all share that same mission," said Connie Doughty in an interview with Metro.

Drew Doughty's parents, Connie and Paul, will be heading on the weekend to New Jersey, where all the parents will meet and fly out on a charter to Sochi.

Yzerman addressed questions about safety, logistics and even about proper apparel.

"He was basically saying it's not Vancouver but he has played many times in that environment — and that environment being Russia — and he says they are genuine people and in the end they kind of make you laugh sometimes, but he sees no concerns for the family at all," Connie Doughty said.

She said she feels a "sense of guilt" that the families of NHL players are treated better than parents of athletes from other sports.

"We will have transportation to and from the arena, and there is a Hockey Canada house as there was in Vancouver," she said.

"Obviously, the scale will be different, but they're absolutely looking after us."

She said one question was raised about wearing Canadian colours when out in public. This came after U.S. athletes were advised to wear black when not in uniform.

"Someone asked if we should refrain from (wearing Canadian red and white), and their immediate reaction was

Canadian pride

"Someone asked if we should refrain from (wearing Canadian red and white), and their immediate reaction was 'no, let's celebrate our country and support the players.' "

Connie Doughty, parent of hockey player Drew Doughty, describing a conference call with Hockey Canada and the National Hockey Players' Association

London's Olympians

Jeff Carter

Jeff Carter GETTY IMAGES

Event: Men's hockey
Position: Centre
Age: 29
NHL team: L.A. Kings
First on the tube: noon on Thursday, Feb. 13
Accomplishments: 2012 Stanley Cup champion, 2009 all-star, 2005 world junior champion
Fact: Was a big Leaf fan as a child and favourite player was Doug Gilmour

Drew Doughty

Drew Doughty GETTY IMAGES

Event: Men's hockey
Position: Defence
Age: 24
NHL team: L.A. Kings
First on the tube: noon on Thursday, Feb. 13
Accomplishments: 2012 Stanley Cup champion, 2010 Olympic champion, 2010 NHL all star, 2008 world junior champion
Fact: At 20, he was the youngest player on the Canada roster in 2010.

Dave Duncan

Dave Duncan THE CANADIAN PRESS

Event: Ski cross
Age: 31
First on the tube: 2:45 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20
Accomplishments: 2010 Winter X Games medalist, two World Cup victories
Fact: Duncan was forced to withdraw from the Vancouver Olympics when he suffered a broken clavicle.

ITS BEST

no, let's celebrate our country and support the players."

Meanwhile, Judith Nesbitt, mother of Olympic gold medalist speedskater Christine Nesbitt, leaves Sunday to watch her daughter compete in her third Olympics.

"The hotel I am staying at was built and completed several years ago. We are in a hotel that is totally Canadian, and it's got friends and family of speedskating, curling and figure skating," she said.

But does that make her relax about the possible threat of terrorism?

"I hope I have my wits about me and I don't want to be paranoid to the point that I am afraid to leave my hotel room," she said. "It's not over until it's over and I'm not going to be relaxed until I am back here again."

MORE OLYMPICS COVERAGE, PAGES 20-21

Staying home

Jim Carter chooses TV over Russia

One London parent who will not be making the trip to Sochi is Jim Carter, father of hockey player Jeff Carter, a member of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings along with Drew Doughty.

"No way. I'm not going anywhere near that place," Carter said. "Once you leave the continent, you're on your own. I'm not a big flyer, as well.

"I didn't even check into the cost of it. Can't imagine what it cost to do it. I'm going to buy a new TV instead."

London's Olympians

Scott Moir

Scott Moir THE CANADIAN PRESS

Event: Ice dance
Age: 26
First on the tube: 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8
Accomplishments: 2010 Olympic champion, 2010 and 2012 world champion, five-time Canadian champion
Fact: Has been skating with Tessa Virtue since he was nine and Virtue was seven

Tessa Virtue

Tessa Virtue THE CANADIAN PRESS

Event: Ice dance
Age: 24
First on the tube: 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8
Accomplishments: 2010 Olympic champion, 2010 and 2012 world champion, five-time Canadian champion
Fact: Favourite (with Moir) to reach podium again but will be in a battle for gold

Christine Nesbitt

Christine Nesbitt THE CANADIAN PRESS

Event: Long-track speedskating
Age: 28
First on the tube: 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11
Accomplishments: 2010 Olympic champion in 1K-metre, 2006 Olympic team pursuit medalist, three-time world 1K-metre champ
Fact: Only Canadian to win speed skating individual gold in Vancouver

Dave Langford's don't-miss moments

1 Patrick Chan. Going for a first

The three-time world champ is trying to do something a Canadian figure skater has never done: win gold in the men's singles event — 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 14
THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 Ice-dance final. The last dance?

Cross your fingers for Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir in their competitive swan song — 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 17
GETTY IMAGES

3 Men's hockey. A lot to prove

When the Olympics were held in Europe, Canada missed the podium. Now that it's in Sochi? Has to be Canada vs. Russia for gold — 7 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23 GETTY IMAGES

4 Opening ceremony. Rivalry

It will be tough for Russia to one-up London's show. It will be easier to improve on Vancouver. — 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 7 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Women's hockey. A sure thing

Best bet in entire Olympics is Canada and the U.S. in the gold-medal game. Picking the winner is not so easy — noon on Thursday, Feb. 20 GETTY IMAGES

Cody Hackman, third from left, with friends and supporters, from left, Louie Maisano, Mike Hattim and Nick Bateman during a visit to London. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Show me the Goods! London calling Cuba

Cuba Gooding Jr.
Local actor and producer planning to bring big star to town for his second London-filmed flick

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Oscar-winning star Cuba Gooding Jr. will make a movie — or at least part of one — in London.

And it's all due to a local boy with a rising career in Hollywood.

At a glance

- Cuba Gooding Jr. won his Oscar for playing sports star Rod Tidwell in Jerry Maguire in 1996.
- His movies since then have seen mixed success, but he's been getting plaudits for a role in Lee Daniels' The Butler. He was nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award for the part.

Cody Hackman, who was born in London and grew up here, has already made one movie in the city and now plans to make another.

Hackman — no relation to actor Gene Hackman — is planning to bring the premiere of Tapped to London in the early summer. It's a martial-arts movie being promoted by Lionsgate, the company behind The Hunger Games.

Now, he's moved on to his next project, entitled Gridlocked, and told Metro on Thursday that the Jerry Maguire star has signed up for the film.

"It's awesome," said Hackman. "I'm so excited. I'm a huge Jerry Maguire fan so working with this guy will be awesome."

Like Tapped, the new movie is being made by London production company Hackybox Pictures.

The productions also share a director, Allan Ungar, who's from Toronto.

All the Ontario connections make bringing the production to London a good choice, said Hackman.

"We start shooting in Toronto on May 26," he said. "The movie's set in New York City but (Toronto) looks like New York.

"But we will definitely be shooting some of the movie in London. We're looking at the army barracks and the old Ford plant (in St. Thomas)."

Cuba Gooding Jr.
GETTY IMAGES

Hackman added: "It's amazing to bring all these people to my hometown."

Gridlocked is the story of an actor in kids' movies, played by Hackman, whose agent wants him to get tougher roles. So they recruit a SWAT team officer played by Cuba Gooding Jr. to train him. The two men quickly hate each other, said Hackman.

"It's a buddy movie," he said. "Cuba seems like a fun guy so it'll be fun to work with him."

Tax rise sits at 3.7%

Final agreement on the city budget still isn't in sight after another day of debate at city hall on Thursday.

Some decisions were made, but the biggest battle was put off for another day as the discussion about most of the police funding was postponed to Friday.

And that all-important number — the tax rise that will be needed to support the spending plans as they stand — was 3.7 per cent by the end of Thursday.

But there are more cuts to come as council members keep debating at meetings between now and Feb. 27.

The wheels on the bus ...

$6M

The city agreed to allot the London Transit Commission $6 million to buy new buses.

Nothing is final until then, but some agreements appear to have been reached.

Thursday's breakthroughs include $6 million to buy new buses for LTC.

There was also good news for cycling campaigners, as a proposed $200,000 cut to funding for bike lanes was dismissed.

Enhanced animal services also got the nod, with an unbudgeted $376,000 earmarked for them. There was $200,000 for tree-planting on streets. Traffic-calming should get an extra $50,000, speeding up some projects. There was money for better rail crossing safety, buying things like signs.

And so on. Expect more in the coming days.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Focus on Fab 4, 50 years on

It was 50 years ago this weekend that Ed Sullivan introduced more than 75 million people to The Beatles.

"I remember sitting there watching them and my mom said she liked George and my dad saying Ringo was his favourite Beatle," said Paul Cox.

"After that, I'd go to school and all the boys had their hair combed down."

Those precious memories are part of the inspiration behind Cox's big Fab 50 event this weekend at the Thames Valley District Education Centre in London.

The event runs Friday through Sunday and will feature Beatles music, local performers, films, cartoons, games, art, trivia and memorabilia.

It's all free, but organizers are asking for a non-perishable food donation for either the London or St. Thomas food bank.

Entry is near the gym in the back northwest corner of the building.

For more information, contact Paul Cox at 519-670-7285 or sacbep@yahoo.ca.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

If you go

Fab 50

- **What:** Event to mark the 50th anniversary of The Beatles' debut
- **Where:** Thames Valley District School Board Education Centre (1250 Dundas St.)
- **When:** Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m; Sunday, noon to 8:15 p.m.

Woodstock. Hospital's preparation came into play during 401 chaos

When push quite literally came to shove this week on Highway 401, the team at Woodstock Hospital's emergency room was ready.

The facility is often the first resort for paramedics transporting car crash victims from the highway. Because of that, the hospital has upped its staffing levels to serve as needed.

The move paid off big time Wednesday as more than 50 vehicles were scattered on and off the 401 as a snowstorm barrelled through the region.

One seasoned OPP officer who was at the scene said he was shocked no one died.

The hospital didn't keep count, but Woodstock vice-president of patient care Jayne Menard said it was an active day for doctors, nurses and other staff.

No patients were turned away, even as they kept arriving for hours, she said.

"We're certainly aware that we're the first point of contact oftentimes in terms of a hospital," she said. "We were busy, but we were able to manage."

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

The result of a pileup Wednesday on Highway 401. COURTESY OPP

Prostitution. Prosecution before new legislation comes into effect unlikely

A spokesman for Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General says Crown lawyers will "likely" not be prosecuting people under three prostitution laws struck down by the Supreme Court.

Brendan Crawley says in a statement that the Crown will continue to prosecute prostitution offences that remain on the books, such as those involving human trafficking provisions and people younger than 18.

He says final decisions about prosecutions involving the three impugned laws will depend on a case-by-case review, but if there are no "alternate prostitution-related charges appropriate to the facts of the case," the Crown will likely not pursue the case.

The Supreme Court of Canada struck down the country's anti-prostitution laws late last year, ruling that laws banning street soliciting, living on the avails and keeping a brothel are unconstitutional.

The court gave the government a year to come up with a new legislative umbrella before the ruling takes effect.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The intersection of Wellington and Commissioners was home to more crashes than any other in the city last year. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

City's most crash-prone crossroads

Crash king. Wellington and Commissioners reclaims bang-up crown

SCOTT TAYLOR
scott.taylor@metronews.ca

Wellington and Commissioners has earned the dubious distinction of being London's crash central, the top spot on the London Police Service list of collision-prone intersections for 2013.

The intersection was home to 84 of the more than 10,000 crashes police investigated. That's eight more than it saw the year before

The total number of crashes in London last year represents a six per cent increase from 2012, police said.

Sgt. Ryan Scrivens of the police traffic management unit said collisions generally occur at intersections.

"Among other reasons, there are often four different directions of travel, multiple lanes of travel in each direction and multiple modes of transportation meeting at the same location," he said.

As for the city's most crash-prone crossroads, "they include all of the aforementioned attributes and also funnel thousands of vehicles every day," he said.

Top five

Intersections with most crashes in 2013:

- Richmond-Oxford: 78
- Highbury-Oxford: 76
- Highbury-Hamilton: 74
- Adelaide-Oxford: 72
- Exeter-Wellington: 68

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'Not going to change'

Rob Ford refuses to attend pride

Toronto's mayor is back in the spotlight after making controversial comments about the city's prominent gay pride festival.

"I'm not going to go to the pride parade," he told the audience at a debate for mayoral hopefuls running in October's municipal election. "I've never been to a pride parade. So I'm not going to change the way I am."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Invasive' species?

Wild horses won't run free in Alberta

The capture of some of Alberta's wild horses is sparking anger from critics.

The Alberta government says feral horses are an invasive species and damage the environment, so it's approved the capture of up to 200 for breeding and to be slaughtered. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal budget

Public-sector sick days cost $871M

The federal budget watchdog says public servants take an average of 11.5 paid sick days a year, compared with 18 days reported by Treasury Board President Tony Clement.

The parliamentary budget office estimates in a new report the salary paid for sick days reached $871 million in 2011-12, about 68 per cent higher than the estimate 10 years prior. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kicking the homeless

Online video may result in charges

Vancouver police say they found online videos of a man allegedly kicking two homeless people in the groin in exchange for money "extremely concerning" and are considering laying charges. A video that appeared on YouTube Wednesday shows the suspect kicking the two victims.

METRO

Drummer in PM's band charged with sex assault

Schoolteacher suspended. Allegations of interference with two girls under the age of 14

JOE LOFARO
Metro in Ottawa

The RCMP says Phillip I. Nolan, who plays drums in a band that often accompanies Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is facing charges of sexual assault and sexual interference against two girls.

A spokesman for Harper says the Prime Minister's Office is "shocked and disturbed" by the charges, which allegedly involve two girls under the age of 14 at the time of the incidents.

Nolan, 43, is also a teacher at Avalon Public School, a middle school in east Ottawa. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board said in a statement Nolan was removed from the classroom when an investigation began and was suspended Thursday after Ottawa police laid the charges.

Nolan faces five counts each of sexual assault, sexual interference, and sexual exploitation.

After a court released him on a $5,000 bond Thursday afternoon, his Toronto-based lawyer, Lou Strezos, said his client is also "very shocked" about the charges.

"He has no criminal record," said Strezos. "He maintains his innocence."

Police allege the incidents took place between 1998 and 2000 during Nolan's tenure as a teacher of Grade 7 and 8 students.

"We are obviously shocked and disturbed by these serious charges," the PM's communications director Jason MacDonald said in a statement.

Phil Nolan (far right) who plays drums in the band that often accompanies Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is facing multiple charges of sexual assault, sexual interference and sexual exploitation. CHRIS YOUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Canada

Soylent founder and CEO Rob Rhinehart holds a glass of Soylent. FACEBOOK

THE FUTURE OF FOOD?

Founder of Soylent says healthy food is expensive and difficult to prepare — and his controversial meal replacement product could be coming to Canada

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
Metro in Toronto

Canadians won't have to wait for a far-off dystopian future to try the controversial Soylent meal replacement product, as the inventor says the company is eyeing Canada as its first international market after it begins shipping to U.S. customers on March 1.

CEO Rob Rhinehart was an electrical engineer at a start-up in California, with insufficient time and money to eat well, when he decided to create something fast and cheap that contains everything humans need to survive.

Soylent comes in two packets, powder and oil, that are mixed with water to form a grayish liquid. It contains no people and costs less than $10 a day.

"Traditionally, healthy food can be very difficult to prepare and very expensive," said Rhinehart. Soylent has a nutrition label that shows a full complement of nutrients, along with carbs, protein and fibre.

"There's a lot of regulation in food," said Rhinehart. "We have gone through all of the hurdles and testing and labelling and process control."

Rhinehart said the label doesn't tell the whole story — that Soylent has a complete amino acid profile and, according to the company's tests, a low glycemic index.

Rhinehart was Soylent's first test subject and he lives "90 per cent" on Soylent today, eating only the occasional social meal. He's gone through long periods of eating only Soylent, and "beta testers" — a tech term for people who try out a new product before it's release — have done the same.

Soylent raised more than $2 million in pre-orders and found venture capital support. It has a community of DIY Soylent makers working on their own Soylent-like food hacks.

It also has many critics.

Two Canadian doctors who are experts in nutrition recommended that consumers wait until Soylent undergoes clinical testing.

Dr. David Lau, a professor of medicine biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Calgary and the president of Obesity Canada, said Soylent's ingredients "appear very complete," but he's concerned about how well they will be absorbed.

Gut flora, the micro-organisms that live in the digestive tract, are essential to human health but are still not well understood and the effect a Soylent diet would have is unknown, he said.

He said using beta testers is "hocus pocus" and doesn't replace clinical trials that could determine the long-term effects of Soylent.

Dr. David Jenkins, a University of Toronto professor and the Canada research chair in nutrition and metabolism, said he'd like to see testing on the product's glycemic index. How the body absorbs Soylent and its post-meal effects are essential to understanding how useful and healthy it is, he said.

Rhinehart has dealt with similar concerns in the past. "If this becomes a problem the amounts can be changed to compensate," he wrote in a post on his site.

Living on Soylent

"If someone starts doing this to simplify their lives, they don't have to spend as much time eating well and just by default will end up getting a lot healthier."
Soylent founder and CEO Rob Rhinehart

Olympian Cherie Piper offers her predictions for the 2014 Games

About Cherie Piper:

- **Age:** 32
- **Olympic gold medals:** Three — 2002, 2006 and 2010
- **World Championships:** One — 2004
- **Retired from Team Canada:** Spring of 2013

Canadian to watch

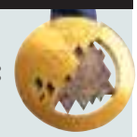
Natalie Spooner, from Toronto. She's big, strong, a natural goal scorer.

International player to watch:

Noora Raty, known as the Finnish Fence. She gives Finland very strong goaltending. She's a game-changer.

Top 3 nations:

Gold: Canada
Silver: U.S.
Bronze: Finland



There were jeers before cheers

Cherie Piper at Blythe Academy in Whitby. She became an elementary teacher at the school after retiring from Team Canada, and coaches hockey in the school's advanced sports program.
ELIZABETH BEDDALL/METRO

'Out on the ice, you can hear everything.' Olympic gold-medallist and Canadian hockey hero overcame taunts, insults to succeed

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
Metro in Toronto

Cherie Piper is a Canadian hockey hero.

So who would bully her?

Me. And a good many others from my high school.

In 1996, Piper's high school, Albert Campbell CI, played my school, Sir Winston Churchill, in the Scarborough B finals.

When we met last month, Piper said she remembers that game well. "Out on the ice, you can hear everything that's yelled," she said. Ouch!

Churchill had a bus full of students at the arena to cheer on our girls. And we didn't know the difference between supporting our team and putting down the opposition.

And Piper was the opposition. She skated circles around our girls and scored most goals in the blowout that followed.

Sharon Mejia, now 34, played against Piper.

"It was very frustrating, because she was clearly way above everybody else on the team," Mejia said.

So the Churchill crowd, mostly boys who saw the game as an opportunity to skip class, booed Piper. A lot.

"We were rowdy. We said things to bring her confidence down," said Imer Hernandez, who was in the stands.

Mejia said the more Piper was booed, the more she seemed to want the puck, and as Campbell ran up the score, the more insulting the Churchill kids became. The insults eventually turned sexual.

I was there, as Churchill's mascot, wearing a bulldog costume with an oversized head. I remember looking through the eyeholes and seeing Piper's dad put his arm around her mom as she wiped her eyes.

Sharon Mejia, bottom-row right, Fernando Carneiro, top-row centre (in the bulldog costume) and the 1996 Sir Winston Churchill women's hockey team.
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL 1995-96 YEARBOOK

"My mom and dad used their energy to protect me," Piper said.

While people accused her of embarrassing the other team, Piper said she thought of her teammates, many using equipment borrowed from Piper.

"Our goalie one year had never put on skates before," Piper said. "I used to run skating drills with the girls."

She remembers their weekly practices well. "Nobody understands how much fun we had as a team," she said.

Nearly 16 years later, Hernandez said he's impressed by Piper's mental toughness.

"She was so young. I'd like to congratulate her for playing to the best of her ability while blocking all that."

As rough as the insults hurled at Piper in the Scarborough finals were, she said they're far from the worst.

Due to a shortage of girls playing hockey, when Piper was eight, her parents had the choice of enrolling her in an under-16 women's league or a team of eight-year-old boys. They chose the boys' league.

"Some of the worst things were things that mothers from the other team would yell at me. They would tell their sons to go injure me or kill me," Piper said. "They couldn't handle the fact that their son was beat by a girl."

The behaviour of the Churchill kids at the Scarborough finals is learned behaviour, Piper said. She's now in a position to influence children differently — since retiring from the national team, she has become a teacher for Blythe Academy in Whitby.

"In my classroom there's no putting people down. There's no treating people differently," Piper said. "Retirement (from hockey) has been nice. I'm just enjoying being a normal person and not having to be at the rink or practice all the time."

When we parted, I apologized on behalf of Churchill.

She accepted it graciously.

Little Cherie

The girl? She's the one who scored on you

The first time Chris Piper watched her daughter climb a rope in gymnastics she was in for a big surprise. "Oh my God! That's my kid?" she asked.

While most other children were wobbling along, Cherie made it to the top.

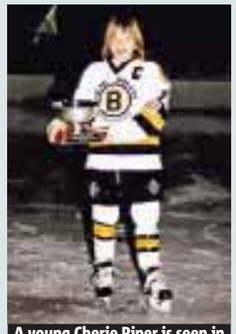
To her mom, it was unfair that as a child Cherie was singled out for being "too good" and for taking up a spot on a boy's team.

"We would be at a tournament and hear parents talk about one team having a girl. They wouldn't look at the top players, they always guessed the boy with the long hair. They would yell at him and say that he shouldn't be on the ice," Chris Piper said. "I would reply, 'See the player who just put the puck in your net? That's the girl.'"

But there were times when Cherie cried.

"I said, 'Honey, if you want to quit, make it your decision. Don't let those people make the decision for you.'"

FERNANDO CARNEIRO/METRO



A young Cherie Piper is seen in this undated photo.
COURTESY CHRIS PIPER

Rubber hits the road

It's namaste for yoga-mat chemical in Subway's bread

Subway says it's in the process of removing a chemical from its bread as part of an ongoing effort to improve its recipes. The news comes after a blogger launched a petition this week asking the sandwich chain to stop using azodicarbonamide. The chemical, used in the bread "as a bleaching agent," is also used to make yoga mats and rubber shoes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.33¢ (+0.08 ¢)

TSX
13,713.40 (+ 153.71)

OIL
$97.84 US (+ $0.46)

GOLD
$1,257.20 US (+$0.30)

Natural gas: $5.02 US (-$0.14)
Dow Jones: 15,628.53 (+ 188.30)

Will BlackBerry meet its Waterloo in keyboard battle?

Or will it be Seacrest out? Typo Products and Canada-based company in war of words over QWERTY add-on for iPhones

Typo Products' iPhone keyboard case.
TYPO PRODUCTS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Typo Products says BlackBerry is trying to hold a monopoly over smartphone keyboards, and that it shouldn't have to take its new iPhone case off the market.

The Los Angeles-based company, co-founded by American Idol host Ryan Seacrest, filed documents Wednesday in a California court defending itself against a patent infringement lawsuit.

BlackBerry accuses Typo of copying its keyboard design in an effort to capitalize on the smartphone maker's "commercial recognition and goodwill."

The company is seeking numerous rulings, including damages from Typo, all of Typo's profits and a stop to future sales of the keyboard technology.

The suit was filed in January and none of the allegations have been tested in court.

Typo disputes the claims made by BlackBerry. The Typo case attaches to an iPhone 5 or 5S, the most recent Apple smartphone models, both of which have touchscreen keyboards.

In its response, Typo attached pictures of various keyboard designs that date as far back as Smith Corona typewriters.

"The QWERTY keyboard has been around since the 1870s and has been present in many messaging devices," Typo said in the documents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

G.I. Joe still in fighting form as he hits the big 5-0

G.I. Joe action figures portray Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima in a display at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. A half-century after the 12-inch doll was introduced at a New York City toy fair, the iconic action figure is being celebrated by collectors with a display at the military museum, while the toy's maker plans other anniversary events to be announced later this month. Since Hasbro's "movable fighting man" hit the shelves in 1964, G.I. Joe has undergone many changes, some the result of shifts in public sentiment for military-themed toys, others dictated by the marketplace. MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OF SUPER BOWLS AND SPYING

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 Black History Month. It's February again, and another great opportunity to learn all about the heroes that have shaped, not just the history of black people in North America, but the whole world. Until it's over and schools go right back to using the same old textbooks. Something tells me we're still a few Februarys away from complete enlightenment. #BHM

2 Bad, bad boy. It was the end of the world. There was darkness and violence and depravity. There were loud noises of motors running high, children crying and sirens wailing. Signs of the apocalypse? Nope, just Justin Bieber on the news again. #Bieber, #Bieberstripper, #DUI....

3 #MattressMack. The Houston furniture store owner's promotion backfired when he offered customers a full refund if the Seahawks were to beat the Broncos. Jim McIngvalen honoured his commitment to the tune of $7 million, but he did it gladly, because it was still cheaper than running a commercial during the Super Bowl.

4 SUPER BOWL XLVIII. Poor Peyton Manning. All everyone did was talk about his football pedigree and five MVPs, but the closest the Broncos came to a touchdown dance was Bruno Mars' halftime performance. Oh sure, they scored a touchdown, but not while anyone was still watching. #worstsuperbowlever

5 5 Seconds of Summer. I have never heard a single original song by this Australian boy band, but the social media gods seem to smile on them because #5SOS keeps trending high. That's a whole lot of tweets. Now, if only they were actually saying something.

6 Woody Allen. The only thing funny about this story is how many twitter-ers or twits, or whatever, did not know that Allen was once pseudo-stepfather to Soon-Yi, his wife. Some argue that she was adopted by Mia Farrow, not Woody, though he dated her for 12 of the child's formative years. It is not illegal. But to put matters into perspective, Allen and Farrow's biological son Ronan once said, "My father is married to my sister. I'm his son and his brother-in-law!" #What??

7 Hoop-la. Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry was named the NBA's Eastern Conference Player of the Week, despite having been snubbed for the All-Star game. Technically, that was last week, but I still haven't gotten over it.

8 I spy. John Forster, head of Canada's eavesdropping agency, was all over social media and the news when he denied spying or any breach of privacy. For most of us, it was enough to just discover that we had an EAVESDROPPING agency!

9 Carrying the torch. Earlier this week, despite concerns about the venue for this year's winter games, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that Sochi was ready. That could mean they're ready for the games, or that all pro-gay activists have been contained. Either way, they're ready. #sochi2014

10 Facebook. The pioneer social media site celebrated their 10th birthday this week. Ten years since dear old friends who'd drifted apart could find each other again, and 10 years since everyone else could too. Cheers! #BestofFacebook

ZOOM

Sochi starts, protests continue

YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The world is watching

Gay rights activists stage a protest that they say evokes the hate crimes and humiliations that are motivated by homophobia in Russia, in Antwerp, Belgium, Thursday. The Sochi Winter Olympics have begun, and many will be watching to see whether Russia will enforce its law banning gay "propaganda" among minors if athletes, fans or activists wave rainbow flags or speak out in protest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IOC's stance

- The IOC has reminded athletes that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites." Athletes will be free to express their opinions at news conferences, however.

Russia's stance

- Vladimir Putin has said gays will be welcome in Sochi if they "leave the kids alone."
- Russia initially banned protests during the Games. Following international outcry, it set up a designated protest zone.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Just because you're not in Sochi for the Winter Games doesn't mean you can't pretend. With your phone at your fingertips there are plenty of podium-ready apps to help you get into the Olympic spirit.

Sochi 2014 Medal Alert:
The official app of the Winter Games, it allows you to follow your favourite events or teams and get notified whenever a medal is awarded. Available for both Android and iOS.

SkiFree:
A veritable classic, this retro downhill skiing game has been ported to iOS. Follow an intrepid skier as he carves through gates while avoiding obstacles and the occasional Yeti. An Android version of the game, entitled You Are The Yeti!, lets you play as the titular sasquatch.

Age of Curling:
Nothing says Winter Olympics like burning a rock in the fourth end. If that sentence made any sense to you, try Age of Curling for iOS. Hailed as one of the better mobile curling games, it lets you play at venues like an 18th century Scottish castle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Twitter

The creator of the Labradoodle says he has regrets about starting the designer dog craze because of health risks. But if you could mix any two breeds (with no health repercussions), what would you make?

@Zom8ieQuEEn a pit bull and a grey hound better watch out when it catches ya lol

@evilaudi why must people cross breed dogs? There are so many breeds to choose from it is impossible to not pick one

@kjwburf I love my Bugg (Boston Terrier x Pug)

@MegBlumenthal I would mix a Shar-Pei and a Poodle. The refined 'Poo-Pei'

@Canucklehead_ca Clearly 'Snoop Dogg' with 'Pitbull'. (I have no idea how breeding works)

Letters

RE: Website Helps Women Get Free Breast Implants, published Feb. 5, 2014

There are many people in countries that need life saving surgery and do not have the money. For the girl that wants breast implants and is getting donations, maybe you should just be thanking God that you have your health. **A. Grossi, Toronto**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

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Synopsis

Based on the book The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History by Robert M. Edsel, the movie stars Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban and Hugh Bonneville as a motley crew of art historians, engineers and museum directors recruited to locate and rescue priceless art works stolen by the Nazis. When two members of their team are killed they are no longer observers but active participants in the war.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●●○○

George Clooney co-wrote The Monuments Men, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Nothing monumental

The Monuments Men. George-Clooney-penned story about saving art in the Second World War skews a little too sentimental

Richard: Mark, this is a wartime comedy. Think Hogan's Heroes by way of Leonardo Da Vinci and you'll get the idea. It has some mild laughs — the biggest giggle, for Canadians anyway, comes from the Parisians who blame Matt Damon's terrible French on having spent too much time in Montreal — but also a great deal of reverence for the art and the work of the real-life monuments men. But what might have been an edgy, exciting look at an underreported slice of World War II history is reduced to an elegantly directed but somewhat dull film.

Mark: Richard, I was really looking forward to this movie. Three of my major obsessions are George Clooney, Nazis and art, although not necessarily in that order. But you're right; the movie is kind of a snooze in parts. There are some great scenes, but they don't quite add up. And at no time did I feel much of a sense of danger, probably because the war is ending and the Germans are already on the run. The great cast is mostly split up during the movie, so the expected camaraderie is absent. But there's one great reason to see this movie, and that's the prominent role of prickly nerd Bob Balaban.

RC: The cast is terrific. Balaban is a great actor, and an underused one, so it's always cool to see him trotted out in anything, but for me Bill Murray shows, once again, in a brief scene in a shower (no spoilers here), how his understated style can move an audience. No problems with the acting, but co-writers Clooney and longtime collaborator Grant Heslov appear to have taken a dose of sentimentality pills before putting pen to paper. The earnest, reverential tone is reinforced by old school pacing that focuses on the character and art over action and a rousing soundtrack that sounds airlifted in from a classic wartime era movie.

MB: Bill Murray, as always, proves that less is indeed more. There's a quasi-romance between Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett that seemed forced to me, not to mention she wears the ugliest pair of shoes in the history of cinema. But all through the movie there's a moral dilemma that keeps being rammed down our throats. Is art valuable enough to risk human life for? The movie tells us over and over that it is, but to be honest, Richard, I'm not so sure. And if you're not sure, the urgency falls apart.

RC: It seems like you noticed Blanchett's shoes more than the art. Therein lies the movie's central problem.

MB: Well, I'm more of a modernist anyway. When they tell the story of how the Germans burned the Klees, Braques, and Picassos I nearly wept. This isn't a bad movie, Richard. I just hoped for a great one.

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The Grand Budapest Hotel. Berlin Film Festival treated to Wes Anderson

Wes Anderson directs The Grand Budapest Hotel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Director Wes Anderson and a strong ensemble cast including Ralph Fiennes, Bill Murray and Edward Norton kicked off the annual Berlin International Film Festival on Thursday with The Grand Budapest Hotel, a caper set in a fictional spa town in pre-Second World War Europe. Here are some tidbits from opening day at the first of the year's major European film festivals.

Written for Ralph

The Grand Budapest Hotel stars British actor Fiennes as its central figure: Monsieur Gustave, a fastidious hotel concierge, and its director says no one else would do.

The part was "written with Ralph in mind," Anderson told reporters ahead of the movie's premiere. "This character is quite grand and theatrical and has to recite poetry and has paragraphs of text."

Still, Fiennes shares the limelight with Norton, Murray, Jeff Goldblum, Tilda Swinton, Willem Dafoe, Jude Law, Adrien Brody, Saoirse Ronan and others in roles large and small.

The movie is the first of 20 competing for the festival's main Golden Bear award.

Happy together

So how does Anderson get stars to play not-so-big roles? Anderson's regular, Murray, who's playing a fellow concierge in this film, leapt in to answer that one.

"We are promised very long hours and low wages ... and stale bread," he said. "That's pretty much it."

Still, he admits the life is pretty cool.

"You get to see the world and we're allowed to let Wes live this wonderful magical life he has where his dreamscape comes true," Murray said. "So we show up, he gets to have all the fun. I guess it's because we like him that we go along."

Who gets to judge?

An eight-member jury under Brokeback Mountain producer James Schamus will announce the winner of the Golden Bear and other prizes on Feb. 15, the festival's penultimate day. Berlinale winners are notoriously hard to predict but, over recent years, it's often been less-heralded productions rather than star-studded headliners that have triumphed — giving those films an audience they might not have otherwise reached.

"It's a very important festival and it's a very friendly place as well," said jury member Michel Gondry, the French director of "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. "It's a little less about the looks than some other places."

Honouring Hoffman

The festival opens as the movie world mourns actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, who was found dead of a suspected drug overdose Sunday. Organizers added a special screening next Tuesday of Capote, which won him the Oscar for best actor in 2006.

"That news was pretty tough on all of us in the business," Schamus said, adding with the screening "he'll be here" in spirit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Filmmaking gets a little more Femme

Femmes Lab. What started as a wild idea at the Whistler Film Festival has turned into a screenplay writing boot camp for six lucky women

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Ingrid Veninger. CONTRIBUTED

Filmmaker Ingrid Veninger says the pitch for the script writing initiative Femmes Lab, "could have back-fired badly."

The actor-turned-director-turned-Renaissance-woman was on stage at the Whistler Film Festival in December receiving an EDA award from the Alliance of Women Film Journalists for her latest film, The Animal Project, when a notion struck her.

"I started to talk about the Femmes Lab at the podium," says Veninger. "Six Canadian women will write six screenplays in six months. Then I took the leap to invite someone to step up for $6,000. At first the room was silent. So, I started counting down: 6, 5 ... and before I hit 4, a women shot her arms in the air and said, 'I'll do it!' My heart was racing and it was only later I realized it was Melissa Leo. Melissa approached me quietly and said, 'This is going to happen. I will get you a cheque before the end of the year.' And, she did."

For her donation, the Frozen River Academy Award winner Leo gets a first look at six scripts written by a hand-picked group of female Canadian writers and directors including Veninger, Danishka Esterhazy, Michelle Latimer, Sophie Deraspe, Anais Granofsky and Mars Horodyski.

"It's not your traditional kind of script development," says Veninger, "that's for sure. It's almost more like a coven. We're not actually casting spells, as we conjure these new screenplays, but sort of. The nuts and bolts is that we meet in person once a month from January until June, mostly in Toronto. And, month to month we each have to move our screenplays forward, so that by the end of June, we have six completed scripts. But what happens in the actual lab session is a secret. I can say that in my past 20 years of making movies, I have not experienced anything like this. First off, the six of us are very different and we bring a diverse range of experiences and perspectives to the table. Our sessions are minimally nine hours, but can also last the whole weekend."

One of the participants, Mars Horodyski, said, "For me the pUNK Films Femmes Lab offers a supportive creative space where you are encouraged to do something different, brave and representative of who you really are. Something really special happens when you get a group of women together to collaborate in this way. It's different from anything I've ever been a part of and I'm excited to see the outcome."

Veninger says this edition of pUNK Films Femme Lab is likely to be "a one time thing. I'm happy to spark the fire, but it's most exciting to see how others keep it going."

It seems that spark is about to ignite.

"After Whistler, I received a message from a filmmaker in L.A. saying, "we should do a Femmes Lab in Los Angeles", and my response was, 'go ahead and do it. Make it happen. We have nothing to lose. Now is the time.'"

Quoted

"I can say that in my past 20 years of making movies, I have not experienced anything like this. First off, the six of us are very different and we bring a diverse range of experiences and perspectives to the table."

Ingrid Veninger on writing a script in the Femmes Lab

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com. **Ratings:** *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Abbie Cornish on a Robocop rewind

Robocop, starring Abbie Cornish, opens next Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

A simpler time.
Australian actress reminisces about watching 1980s classic until her VHS tape wore out

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Abbie Cornish has fond memories of the original Robocop, having grown up in Australia watching, re-watching and eventually wearing out a VHS copy of the 1987 film at far too young an age, thanks to her older brothers. So she hopes other fans of Paul Verhoeven's ultra-violent action flick will take her involvement in José Padilha's PG-13 remake as a major vote of confidence.

It was a different time, when you had to worry about VHS tapes wearing out.
And it was so devastating when they did — or if they tore! And sometimes you couldn't replace them either. It seems so silly, you'd be 10 years later trying to find another VHS of Robocop and you can't. It's like all of a sudden it becomes a collector's item.

What were some of your favourite parts of the original?
I mean, that scene is crazy when he goes in on his own and he gets blown apart. I know it sounds really violent because I was, like, 5 or 6 when I watched that, but that scene is just insane. It's really classic. I love that movie. I really enjoyed watching it again. I watched it a couple of times before we made the movie, and people were like, 'Don't do that!' I was like, 'But I love it!'

Plus, this version is pretty different from the original.
Yeah, it's different. It's a whole different entity. Look, I really hope that the people who are skeptical about the film and are saying that they're not going to watch it because 'we love the original Robocop and they shouldn't have remade it,' I really hope that they go to the cinemas and watch it because I think that they'll be pleasantly surprised.

The default position of any remake is skepticism, though.
I guess so. Maybe I've just never been privy to it. We retell stories all the time. Sometimes they're very well done and sometimes not so well done.

What are some of your favourite tricks of the trade for tapping into a character?
I listen to a lot of music while I work. I usually make a playlist for each film that sums up what that character's journey is throughout the film, so I can always go back to it and go back to it. Basically it's like home. Or sometimes if I feel a bit lost on the way to work in regards to what we're doing, I'll pull up a Turner painting and just stare at it for half an hour, and that will just give me something for the day. Because sometimes, to be honest, I don't know what I'm doing as an actor and I like that feeling.

Animation

The Lego Movie

Director. Phil Lord, Christopher Miller

Stars. Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks

This story follows Emmet (Chris Pratt), an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average LEGO minifigure who is mistakenly identified as the most extraordinary person and the key to saving the world. He is drafted into a fellowship of strangers on an epic quest to stop an evil tyrant, a journey for which Emmet is hopelessly and hilariously under-prepared.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 100% Audience: 96%

Action-Comedy

Vampire Academy

Director. Mark Waters

Stars. Zoey Deutch, Lucy Fry, Daniela Kozlovsky

Rose Hathaway (Deutch) is a Dhampir: half human-vampire, guardians of the Moroi, peaceful, mortal vampires living discretely within our world. Her legacy is to protect the Moroi from bloodthirsty, immortal Vampires, the Strigoi. This is her story.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: TBA Audience: 86%

Documentary

Visitors

Director. Godfrey Reggio

Thirty years after Koyaanisqatsi, Godfrey Reggio — with the support of Philip Glass and Jon Kane — once again leapfrogs over earth-bound filmmakers and creates another stunning, wordless portrait of modern life. Presented by Steven Soderbergh in black and white 4K digital projection, Visitors reveals humanity's trancelike relationship with technology, which, when commandeered by extreme emotional states, produces massive effects far beyond the human species.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 68% Audience: 52%

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Nebraska (PG) Fri-Sun 9:40 Mon 5 Tue 5:10 Wed 7:05 Thu 3:05
Philomena (PG) Fri 5:10 Sat 12:30 Sun 5:10 Mon 3:05 Wed 5:10 Thu 7:20

Rainbow Cinemas London
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12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:40-6:50-9:35 Thu 12:45-3:40-6:50
August: Osage County (14A) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:45
Endless Love (PG) Thu 9:35
Frozen (G) Fri-Tue 1:15-3:35
I, Frankenstein (PG) Fri-Tue 7:20-9:25
Labor Day (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:25-6:55-9:30
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-7-9:20
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-7:05-9:40
The Nut Job (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:20
RoboCop (PG) Wed-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:10-9:45
That Awkward Moment (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:15-9:40

Western Film
Room 340, UCC Building, Argo (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Thu 9:40
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Monty Python's Life of Brian (R) Fri-Sat 12

Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S,

I, Frankenstein (PG) Fri-Thu 9:10
Labor Day (PG) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45
The LEGO Movie (G) Sat-Sun 3:45
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:40
The Nut Job (PG) Sat-Sun 3:30
The Nut Job 3D (PG) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
Philomena (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Ride Along (14A) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20
RoboCop (PG) Wed-Thu 7-9:40
That Awkward Moment (14A) Fri 7:15-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:35
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:10-8 Mon-Tue 8

Labor Day. CONTRIBUTED

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American Hustle (14A) Fri 4-7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-7:10-10 Mon 7:30 Tue 4-7:10-10 Wed-Thu 7:30
August: Osage County (14A) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:45-9:35 Mon 6:30-9:30 Tue 3:45-6:45-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:30
Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 1:15
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 4:15-6:55 Sat-Sun 4-7 Mon 7:10 Tue 4:15-6:55 Wed-Thu 7:10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 5-7:50-10:25 Sat 12:10-7:20-10:15 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:15 Mon 7:15-9:50 Tue 5-7:50-10:25 Wed-Thu 7:25-9:55
Labor Day (PG) Fri 4:40-7:40-10:25 Sat 2:45-4:30-7:50-10:30 Sun 2:35-5:15-7:50-10:30 Mon 6:40-9:25 Tue 4:40-7:40-10:25 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:25
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The LEGO Movie (G) Sat-Sun 12 Wed 1:30
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 4:50-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:25-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon 6:50-9:20 Tue 4:50-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Rusalka (STC) Sat 12:55
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 4:50-6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4:50-6:40-9:30 Mon 8 Tue 4:50-6:40-9:30 Wed 1:20-6:40-9:30 Thu 6:40-9:30 Fri 4:10-7:05-10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-10 Mon 7-9:45 Tue 4:10-7:05-10 Wed-Thu 8
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Nut Job (PG) Sat 12:45 Sun 12:15
The Nut Job 3D (PG) Fri 5:10-7:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 2:55-5:15-7:30-9:50 Mon 7:20-9:40 Tue 5:10-7:30-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:40
RoboCop (PG) Wed-Thu 8:30 Wed 1:15-7-9:45 Thu 7-9:45
That Awkward Moment (14A) Fri 4:20-7:40-10:25 Sat 2-4:20-7:40-10:25 Sun 2-4:20-7:40-10:20 Mon 8:30 Tue 4:20-7:40-10:20
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 4-8 Sat 5:30-9:20 Sun 12:20-4:10-8 Mon 7:45 Tue 4-8

SilverCity London
1680 Richmond St

American Hustle (14A) Fri 1:10-4-7:05-10:25 Sat 12:50-4-7:15-10:25 Sun 4-7:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:10-4-7:05-10:10
Anohana the Movie: The Flower We Saw That Day (STC) Sun 12:45 Wed 7:30
A Cinderella Story (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 1:05 Sat 12:05 Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 1:05
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 3:25-5:45-8:05 Sat 2:35-4:50-7:30 Sun 2:50-5:10-7:30 Mon-Thu 3:25-5:45-8:05
Gravity: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-3:40-5:50-7:50-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri 2:30-6:40-10 Sat 11:55-6:40-10 Sun 2:30-6:40-10 Mon-Wed 2:30-6:40-9:55 Thu 3:30-9:55
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 1:40-4:35-7:40-10:25 Sat 3:30-7:55-10:35 Sun 2:05-4:30-7:05-9:40 Mon-Tue 1:40-4:30-7:40-10:05 Wed 1:40-4:30-10:05 Thu 1:40-4:30-7:40-10:05
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 1-3:30-6:15 Sat 11-11:30-1:25-3:50-5:35-8:05 Sun 12:50-3:20-5:45-8:10 Mon-Tue 2-4:35-7:10 Wed 4:35-7:10 Thu 1:05-2-4:35-7:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:05
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 1:25-4:10-6:40-9:30 Sat 12-2:30-5:05-7:35-10:05 Sun 12:30-3-5:25-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:10-6:40-9:30
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri 10:30 Sat-Sun 9:55 Mon-Thu 10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Rusalka (STC) Sat 12:55
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 1:25-4:20-7:20-9:50-10:20 Sat 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:20-10:45 Sun 1:05-4:20-7:20-10:20-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:50-10:20 Wed 4:20-7:20-9:50-10:20 Thu 1:20-4:20-7-9:50-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Odd Thomas (STC) Thu 7:30
Ride Along (14A) Fri 2:05-5:10-7:55-10:35 Sat 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:25 Mon-Wed 2:05-5:10-7:30-9:50 Thu 2:05-5:10-7:35-9:50
RoboCop: The IMAX Experience (PG) Wed-Thu 1:20-4:05-7-10
That Awkward Moment (14A) Fri 1-3:20-5:30-8:10-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Tue 1-3:20-5:30-8-10:20 Wed 1:05-3:20-5:30-8-10:20 Thu 1-3:20-5:30-8-10:20
Vampire Academy (PG) Fri 2:10-4:55-7:45-10:40 Sat 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Wed 1:35-4:15-7:15-10 Thu 1:35-4:15-6:55-10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 1-4:45-8:45 Sat 2:40-6:35-10:15 Sun-Tue 1-4:45-8:45 Wed 1:05-4:45-8:45 Thu 1-4:45-8:45

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Sorkin delivers candid opinion on Hoffman death

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Philip Seymour Hoffman and writer Aaron Sorkin worked together only once, on Sorkin's film Charlie Wilson's War. But they had an important thing in common: They were both recovering addicts.

In the wake of Hoffman's death, the Newsroom creator is sharing some of his conversations with him. In an obituary for Time, he writes that Hoffman told him, "If one of us dies of an overdose, probably 10 people who were about to won't." In other words, Sorkin writes, the death of a famous addict might scare a few other people on the edge into getting clean, and that's why, he says, it's important to be clear that Hoffman didn't die because he did heroin wrong, but because he did it at all.

"(Hoffman) did not die from an overdose of heroin — he died from heroin. We should stop implying that if he'd just taken the proper amount then everything would have been fine.

"He didn't die because he was partying too hard or because he was depressed," he added, "He died because he was an addict."

Philip Seymour Hoffman

Vanity Fair offers Paltrow an olive branch despite their ongoing feud

This should be interesting.

Despite the feud between Gwyneth Paltrow and Vanity Fair, during which she reportedly instructed A-list friends to not work with the magazine or attend its events because of its planned "epic take-down" of her, editor Graydon Carter has included Paltrow on the invite list for its annual Oscar party, according to E! News. Whether or not she attends, however, is yet to be seen.

Carter did divulge, though, that rumours of plans for a counter-party were apparently fabricated. "There were reports that she was trying to scuttle our annual Oscar party, that she was going to organize a competing dinner," Carter says. "The Paltrow camp subsequently denied both claims."

Gwyneth Paltrow

Is Foxx in Cruise control mode by keeping Katie a secret?

Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes can't seem to dodge rumours that they're secretly an item.

According to Page Six, Foxx and Holmes have been seeing each other since last summer but are keeping the romance hush-hush out of respect for Holmes' ex-husband, Tom Cruise. "Jamie is being careful because he has a lot of respect for Tom," a source says. When rumours first circulated about the pair last August, Foxx vehemently denied them.

Jamie Foxx

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Hey people in Sochi hotels with unflushable toilets and undrinkable water: look on the bright side, you could be on a Carnival Cruise!

Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Flight crew give their side of Bieber's high flying

More details are emerging about Justin Bieber's hot-boxed flight into the New York area for the Super Bowl last week. According to an official report obtained by NBC News, Bieber and his entourage smoked so much marijuana on the plane that the flight crew donned oxygen masks to avoid inhaling any.

"The captain of the flight stated that he warned the passengers, including Bieber, on several occasions to stop smoking marijuana," the report states. "The captain also stated he needed to request that the passengers stop their harassing behaviour toward the flight attendant and after several warnings asked the flight attendant to stay with him near the cockpit to avoid any further abuse. The flight attendant stated the passengers, including Bieber and his father Jeremy Bieber, were extremely abusive verbally."

The flight was met by authorities who searched the plane but found no unsmoked marijuana. No members of the flight crew were willing to file charges against Bieber or his fellow revellers.

Liquid Assets

Pinot Gris vs. Pinot Grigio

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
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Here's a question I was asked this week: Why do some vineyards call their wines Pinot Gris while others use Pinot Grigio?

Well, the white grape is French so Pinot Gris is its original name. Italy grows a clone of Pinot Gris that they call Pinot Grigio, well, because they're Italian, and which is lighter and crisper than the French versions.

Lots of other countries grow Pinot Gris and deciding on how to spell it is a combination of flavour profile and marketing savvy. Some feel Gris sounds more sophisticated. Others produce a richer wine that they think compares to a French Pinot Gris so go with that spelling.

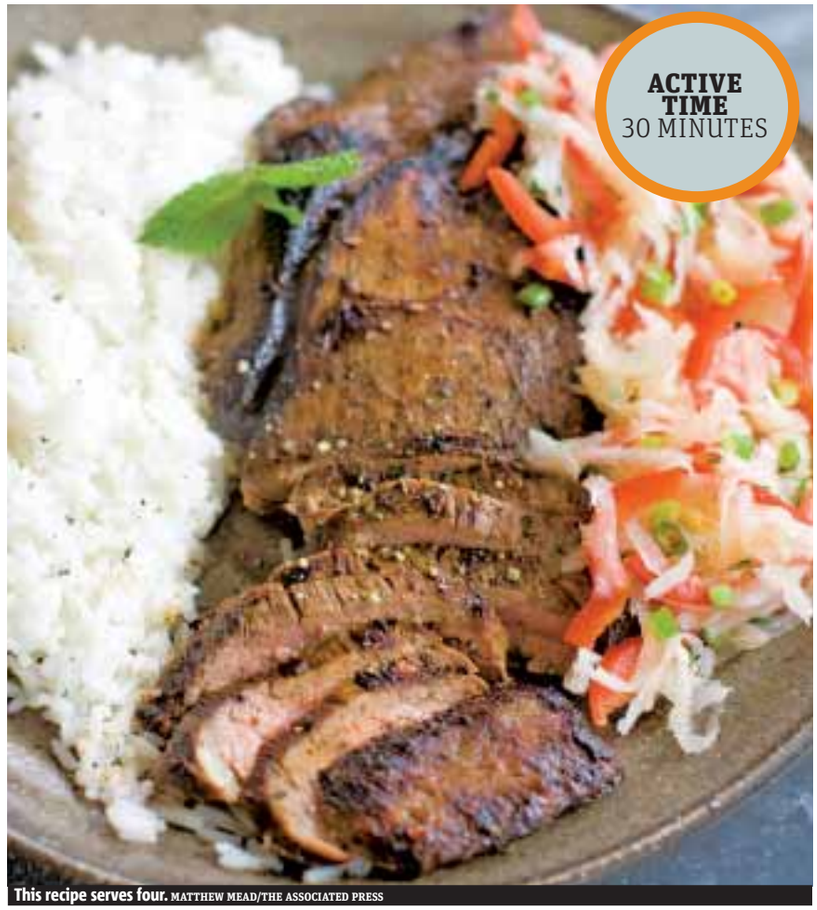
Since the popularity of Pinot Grigio is undeniable (which translates to profitable) the majority of countries who grow Gris choose to use it.

South Africa's Two Oceans 2013 Pinot Grigio ($10.25 - $11.29) is a great example. Clean, bright and relaxed, it pays enough homage to its Italian cousins to make it more than worthy of the name.

Try with mussels, white fish, chicken, vegetable dishes and semi-soft cheeses. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Skip tired steak rub and opt for Asian influence

Pan Seared Flank Steak and Daikon Slaw. Dress up the classic cut of meat



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Start by marinating the flank steak in five-spice powder, rice vinegar and soy sauce. Then while the steak is absorbing all those rich flavours, grate a daikon radish (they resemble giant white carrots, but have a mild peppery bite) and toss it with grated fresh ginger, scallions and red bell pepper for a simple slaw with just enough assertiveness to cut through the savory heft of the steak.

If you want to keep this dish lean, serve it over brown rice. But if you are willing to embrace carbs, try it on a bun.

Ingredients

- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp five-spice powder
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 4 1/2 tbsp rice vinegar, divided
- 2 tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 lb flank steak
- 1 cup shredded daikon radish, patted dry with paper towels
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and sliced into thin matchsticks
- 1 1/2 tsp grated fresh ginger
- Pinch of salt
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp canola or vegetable oil

1. In zip-close plastic bag, mix black pepper, five-spice powder, red pepper flakes, 3 tablespoons of the vinegar and soy sauce. Add flank steak, seal bag, then turn to coat evenly. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 2 hours.

2. Meanwhile, in bowl, stir together the daikon radish, bell pepper, ginger, salt, the remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons of vinegar and the scallions. Set aside.

3. When you are ready to cook the steak, in a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the steak and sear for 4 minutes per side, or until desired doneness. Allow the steak to rest on a cutting board for 8 minutes. Slice the steak thinly across the grain, then serve with the slaw.

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4 SPORTS

Curling

Homan's flawless record gets a scare

Rachel Homan finally faced adversity at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

And the Team Canada skip emerged from it with a comeback 7-6 victory over Saskatchewan's Stefanie Lawton and with her perfect record intact at 9-0 on Thursday at the Maurice Richard Arena in Montreal.

"It was a really good game," said Homan, who was taken to the 10th end for the first time in the tournament. "Fun for the fans and fun for us to get a lot of rocks in play.

"It was a tough battle to get control of the game back and force a mistake in the last end."

Homan's Ottawa rink plowed through its first eight games outscoring its opponents by a combined 71-30, but it wasn't that easy against Lawton (7-2).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey

Henrik won't make it to Sochi for Team Sweden

Vancouver Canucks star Henrik Sedin is skipping the Sochi Winter Games.

In a statement issued by the NHL club Thursday, Sedin said he's physically unable to play for Sweden at the Games.

"I'm disappointed not to be physically able to represent my country at the Winter Olympic Games," Sedin said. "This is a difficult decision but ultimately the best decision for me personally, Team Sweden and the Vancouver Canucks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Lightning duo have instant impact

NBL Canada. Johnson, McCombs flex muscle in London debut vs. rivals from down 401

DAVE LANGFORD
dave.langford@metronews.ca

It was abundantly clear from the opening minute Thursday that the additions of six-foot-seven, 248-pound Jermaine Johnson and 6-8, 235-pound Dwight McCombs have changed the London Lightning.

And on this night — and maybe for many evenings to come — the Lightning were a different, tougher basketball team.

The result was a rock 'em, sock 'em game — but not a victory — against arch-enemy Windsor Express in an NBL Canada game at the Budweiser Gardens. Windsor won 107-100. The first-place Express now lead the season series four games to three with the two teams doing battle again Friday night in Windsor.

"We traded basically an MVP for two first-team all stars," Lightning general manager Taylor Brown said of two big-men acquisitions this week, Johnson released from the Ottawa Skyhawks and McCombs swapped for cash from the Mississauga Power.

These deals came on the heels of last year's playoff MVP Marvin Phillips leaving the team Monday to play in France.

Getting Johnson was a pleasant surprise for Brown, who didn't expect Ottawa to release him.

"We had a guy ready to catch a plane and we basically shut off the deal because we got the deal done with Jermaine," Brown admitted.

Johnson and McCombs took turns neutralizing Windsor tough man DeAndre Thomas, and taking the time to score 26 first-half points between them.

"It is the strangest feeling ever all season long. I was about to walk into the visitor's locker-room. And I have to get used to this," Johnson said.

Johnson said he wasn't certain what to do when he was faced with the surprise release from the Skyhawks.

"The difficulty was should I stay in Canada, should I leave, should I continue what I started here, since I was terminated in Ottawa, I just didn't know what to do" he said.

"But the guys here, they called me and talked to me here and made me feel like I would be accepted as one of their own. So I can't do any worse going over to London."

McCombs said he has enjoyed his first few days with London. "When you're in a some place for while and you invest so much time in it, of course you have some mixed emotions about leaving," McCombs said.

On Thursday

Express	Lightning
107	100

London's Jermaine Johnson drives past Windsor's Quinnel Brown during the Lightning's game against the Express on Thursday at Budweiser Gardens.
ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

OVERTIME
with Micheal Ray Richardson
Get the inside track on the London Lightning as Metro's Dave Langford chats with coach and former NBA star Micheal Ray, every Wednesday at metronews.ca
metro
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Canada's Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford compete in the pairs portion of the figure skating team event at the Sochi Winter Olympics on Thursday.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duo gives its team an uplifting routine

Figure skating. Canada in second following Duhamel and Radford's 'ultimate moment' in pairs short program

Patrick Chan did a mock baton pass to teammates Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford down in the warmup area of the Iceberg Skating Palace between events Thursday night.

Canada's pairs team took it and ran.

Duhamel and Radford had perhaps the skate of their careers Thursday to put Canada in second place of the inaugural team figure skating event at the Sochi Olympics, just two points behind Russia.

Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmertown, Ont., were second in the pairs short program after three-time world champion Chan finished third in the men's short.

"I think that was the greatest feeling," said Duhamel, who clasped both hands over her mouth after the music stopped. "It's not the points, it's not the winning, it's not Canada winning a medal.

"To perform like that and finish our program with that feeling we had, it's every athlete's dream here in Sochi and at any Olympics, and we just did it, we just lived the ultimate moment of every athlete in the world."

Russia leads with 19 points after Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov finished first in the pairs short and veteran Evgeni Plushenko was a surprising second in the men's event. China is third with 15 points.

The team event continues with the short dance, women's short program and pairs long program Saturday.

The event's debut was a hit with the skaters and the crowd, which warmed up as the night went on. By the time Volosozhar and Trankov skated, the arena was rocking, spectators were chanting and stomping their feet.

Skaters sat as teams along one end in Davis Cup fashion.

"It was interesting to see the wave going around and I think the Germans had a cowbell," said Canadian captain Scott Moir. "It was fun. But it was hard for us not to go back to Vancouver personally, seeing the Russian team and Evgeni skate so well in front of a home crowd.

"It really is a special moment for those skaters and for Sochi, so for us it's nice way to start the Games."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It doesn't matter what kind of result it will be in the end. I've already won — for myself."

Russian figure skater Evgeni Plushenko, who placed second in the men's short program of the team event. At the age of 31, the 2006 Olympic champion has endured 12 surgeries.

Ogle on Google

The Canadian Olympian who's generating the biggest spike of search traffic on Google isn't Sidney Crosby, it isn't flag-bearer Hayley Wickenheiser, or any other hockey player. It's figure skater Tessa Virtue, who along with partner Scott Moir, won ice dancing gold in Vancouver in 2010.

- Crosby, captain of the men's hockey team, was second on Google's list, followed by Moir and Wickenheiser.

Luge. Slower track built to avoid repeat of tragedy from Vancouver Games

Everyone knew the danger. An uneasiness hung in the frosted Canadian air four years ago. Nerves were on edge.

For good reason.

Just hours before the flame was ignited on Feb. 12, 2010 in Vancouver, an otherwise typical morning in the picture-perfect Blackcomb Mountains turned tragic.

Back in Lake Placid, N.Y., Aidan Kelly was on his computer in study hall monitoring the luge competitors as they took their final training runs on the Whistler track before the start of the Winter Olympics.

Without warning, the screen went dark. Disaster, as some feared would happen, came in an unimaginable flash.

In one moment, the sport of luge was forever changed.

"I was that nerd kid who watched everything about luge," said Kelly, a U.S. luger who was just 15 at the time and dreaming of competing in the Olympics. "The guy on the track was going and going and then ..."

And then Nodar Kumaritashvili, the slider Kelly was watching, was dead.

The worst-case scenario, the one foretold by startling speeds, experienced champions crashing during practice, even private predictions from sliding officials, had occurred. Kumaritashvili, an easygoing 21-year-old from a tiny skiing village in war-torn Georgia where his father and uncle raised him to slide, was thrown from his sled travelling at nearly 145 km/h, faster than he had ever gone before.

Unable to navigate the last turn of the treacherous track, Kumaritashvili, who had escaped injury during an earlier wreck, went feet-first into one wall, the impact somehow ricocheting his body off the track and the back of his head struck an exposed steel pole within sight of the finish line.

He died instantly.

His death sapped joy from the games, and raised questions about safety and whether the sliding sports — bobsled, skeleton and luge — had pushed the threshold of human performance too far in trying to see how fast highly trained athletes on wind-tunnel-tested, state-of-the-art equipment could go on ice.

To help prevent another serious mishap, organizers for the Sochi Games designed a slower track, but one they believe will still challenge the world's top sliders and drivers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's John Fennell goes through a training session for the luge on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think it taught a lesson to a lot of people in the sport to take a lot more care when it comes to safety issues."

Indian luger Shiva Keshavan on the death of Nodar Kumaritashvili.

Accommodations

Ovechkin defends Games' host city

Alex Ovechkin wants Sochi's critics to knock it off.

The Russian Olympian and face of the Games told reporters at the Washington Capitals' morning skate Thursday that people were going out of their way to find faults with the host city.

"I've been in three Olympic games. And I remember Torino and Vancouver and nobody said about something bad in Vancouver or Torino," Ovechkin said in Arlington, Va. "And why you guys always have something, try to find some bad things in Sochi ...

"Enjoy it and don't, like, find, like, bad stuff out there. Everything, like, in Torino we lived where construction was and nobody say about that."

Alex Ovechkin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most of the problems documented in Sochi this week have had to do with hotels for visiting media members not being finished and problems like no hot water and light bulbs in rooms. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Justine Dufour-Lapointe reacts after a qualifying run in the women's moguls at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Thursday in Sochi. Justine and her sisters Chloe and Maxime all qualified for Saturday's final. ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ski sisters cinch spots in finals

Women's moguls. Dufour-Lapointe sisters, Audrey Robichaud place in top 10 in qualifiers

The Dufour-Lapointe sisters all have a spot in the women's moguls finals at the Sochi Olympics.

Defending champion Hannah Kearney of the United States cruised through qualifying on Thursday, posting a score of 23.05, well clear of Montreal's Chloe Dufour-Lapointe (22.64) for the top spot.

Justine Dufour-Lapointe (22.28) took third and Maxime Dufour-Lapointe (20.88) finished eighth, assuring all three sisters a spot in the finals.

All three sisters declined to speak to the media after qualifying to concentrate on preparing for Saturday's final.

Quebec City's Audrey Robichaud also qualified, placing ninth with a score of 20.61.

It's a return to Olympic competition for Robichaud, who qualified for the 2006 Turin Olympics at age 17 before missing out on the 2010 Vancouver Games.

She nearly missed out on these Games due to a knee injury that sidelined her for part of the season.

"I really made a lot of progress, but the fact that I had not skied in competition last month worried me a little," Robichaud said. "It feels good to be back."

Kearney, the defending Olympic champion, posted the second-fastest time down the hill and highlighted it with a pair of well executed if not quite perfect jumps that allayed any concerns about the course's safety.

"I think that everywhere we go, every World Cup venue, we show up and say, 'Oh, my god. How are we going to make it down this course? This is impossible,"' Kearney said.

After some tweaking by officials, the slopes of the Caucasus Mountains looked no different than most other moguls events over the last four years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It feels good to be back."

Audrey Robichaud, who nearly missed out on the Sochi games due to a knee injury.

Did you know?

100+

Freestyle skiing dates back more than 100 years, with records of skiers performing somersaults on skis at the start of the 20th century in Norway, Italy and Austria. The first professional competitions were in 1971, and it entered the Olympic program in 1992.

Inter-Canadian duel

Defending moguls champion Alex Bilodeau's toughest competition could come from Canadian teammate Mikael Kingsbury, pictured.

Slopestyle. Disappointing qualifier for McMorris

Mark McMorris looked up at the scoreboard at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Thursday, shook his head and then voiced his displeasure.

The Canadian snowboarding star thought he had nailed his second run in the men's slopestyle qualifying round at the Sochi Olympics. The judges didn't agree and now the Regina native has to go through the semifinal round in order to advance to Saturday's final.

"I was bummed because I really had no thought in my mind that I wasn't in there," McMorris said. "I thought for sure I was going to be in. So it's kind of like a shot to the heart."

The top four riders in each of the two heats advanced straight to Saturday's 12-man final. McMorris, who finished seventh in his heat with 89.25 points, will compete in the semifinal earlier that day with 20 other riders who will be vying for the four remaining spots.

Reigning X Games champion Maxence Parrot of Bromont, Que., led the 29-man field with 97.50 points. Sebastien Toutant of L'Assomption, Que., also qualified for the final with a third-place finish in his heat (87.25).

Spencer O'Brien of Courtenay, B.C., reached the women's final with a third-place effort (82.75) while Jenna Blasman of Kitchener, Ont., was sixth in her heat (60.25) and will settle for a semifinal appearance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mark McMorris
GETTY IMAGES

Twitter beef

Canucks trash-talk U.S. boarder

Forget McRib versus the Flying Tomato.

The rivalry between Canadian snowboarding star Mark McMorris and American pioneer Shaun White has been shelved for now. Enter Sebastien Toutant and Maxence Parrot, a couple of trash-talking Canucks who didn't back down the day after criticizing White for pulling out of the slopestyle event at the Sochi Games.

"I'm happy that I said what I think to the world," Parrot said.

White withdrew Wednesday on the eve of the qualification round, citing concerns about the course at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park and the potential for injury. A social media brouhaha kicked off a short time later when Toutant and Parrot weighed in on Twitter.

"Mr. White... It's easy to find excuses to pull out of a contest when you think you can't win ..." Toutant said in a tweet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHAT CANADA DID

THURSDAY
SNOWBOARD
Men's Slopestyle Qualification - Heat 1: y-Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., 3rd (87.25); x-Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., 9th (75.50); **Heat 2:** y-Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., 1st (97.50); x-Mark McMorris, Regina, 7th (89.25).
Ladies' Slopestyle Qualification - Heat 1: y-Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., 3rd (82.75); **Heat 2:** x-Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., 6th (60.25).
y- advances to final; x- advances to semifinal
FREESTYLE SKIING
Ladies' Moguls Qualification - y-Chloe Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 2nd (22.64); y-Justine Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 3rd (22.28); y-Maxime Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 8th (20.88); y-Audrey Robichaud, Quebec City, 9th (20.61).
y- advances to final
FIGURE SKATING
Team Men Short Program - Patrick Chan, Toronto, 3rd (89.71).
Team Pairs Short Program - Meagan Duhamel, Lively, Ont., and Eric Radford, Balmertown, Ont., 2nd (73.10)

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

FIGURE SKATING

At Sochi, Russia
Team Event
Men's Short Program
1. Yuzuru Hanyu, Japan, 97.98; 2. Evgeny Plushenko, Russia, 91.39; **3. Patrick Chan, Toronto, 89.71;** 4. Yan Han, China, 85.52; 5. Florent Amodio, France, 79.93. 6. Peter Liebers, Germany, 79.61; 7. Jeremy Abbott, United States, 65.65; 8. Yakov Godorozha, Ukraine, 60.51; 9. Matthew Parr, Britain, 57.40; 10. Paul Bonifacio Parkinson, Italy, 53.94.
Pairs Short Program
1. Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov, Russia, 83.79; **2. Meagan Duhamel, Lively, Ont., and Eric Radford, Balmertown, Ont., 73.10;** 3. Peng Cheng and Zhang Hao, China, 71.01; 4. Stefania Berton and Ondrej Hotarek, Italy, 70.31; 5. Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir, United States, 64.25. 6. Maylin Wende and Daniel Wende, Germany, 60.82; 7. Vanessa James and Morgan Cipres, France, 57.45; 8. Narumi Takahashi and Ryuichi Kihara, Japan, 46.56; 9. Julia Lavrentieva and Yuri Rudyk, Ukraine, 46.34; 10. Stacey Kemp and David King, Britain, 44.70.

SNOWBOARD

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Top 3 results from each Heat
QUALIFYING
(Start position in parentheses)
Heat One — Run One
1. (12) Peetu Piiroinen, Finland, 90.75; 2. (10) Chas Guldemond, United States, 86.00; 3. (5) Niklas Mattsson, Sweden, 82.75.
ALSO
5. (7) Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., 74.25; 8. (3) Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., 54.50.
Run 2
1. (8) Staale Sandbech, Norway, (45.25; 94.50) 94.50; **2. (7) Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., (74.25; 87.25) 87.25**; 3. (14) Jamie Nicholls, Britain, (62.25; 86.75) 86.75.
Also
7. (3) Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., (54.50; 75.50) 75.50.
Heat 2 — Run 1
1. (6) Sven Thorgren, Sweden, 94.25; **2. (4) Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., 91.75;** 3. (10) Clemens Schattschneider, Austria, 90.00.
Also
12. (9) Mark McMorris, Regina, 29.50.
Run 2
1. (4) Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., (91.75; 97.50) 97.50; 2. (3) Roope Tonteri, Finland, (33.75; 95.75) 95.75; 3. (1) Gjermund Braaten, Norway, (12.75; 91.25) 91.25.
Also
5. (9) Mark McMorris, Regina, (29.50; 89.25) 89.25.
Final Ranking
1. Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., (91.75; 97.50) 97.50 (QF); 1. Staale Sandbech, Norway, (45.25; 94.50) 94.50 (QF); 2. Roope Tonteri, Finland, (33.75; 95.75) 95.75 (QF); 2. Peetu Piiroinen, Finland, (90.75; 80.00) 90.75 (QF); 3. Sven Thorgren, Sweden, (94.25; 36.75) 94.25 (QF); **3. Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., (74.25; 87.25) 87.25 (QF).**
Also
7. Mark McMorris, Regina, (29.50; 89.25) 89.25 (QS); 9. Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., (54.50; 75.50) 75.50 (QS).

WOMEN'S SLOPESTYLE
Top 5 results from each Heat
QUALIFYING
(Start position in parentheses)
Heat One
Run One
1. (11) Torah Bright, Australia, 85.25; **2. (4) Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., 82.75;** 3. (5) Isabel Derungs, Switzerland, 82.50.
Run 2
1. (5) Isabel Derungs, Switzerland, (82.50; 87.50) 87.50; 2. (11) Torah Bright, Australia, (85.25; 80.00) 80.00; 3. (6) Christy Prior, New Zealand, (67.50; 70.50) 70.50
Also
4. (4) Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., (82.75; 65.00) 65.00; 5. (7) Aimee Fuller, Britain, (44.50; 39.00) 39.00.
Heat 2
Run 1
1. (6) Jamie Anderson, United States, 93.50; 2. (2) Anna Gasser, Austria, 89.50; 3. (8) Elena Koenz, Switzerland, 86.25.
Also
5. (4) Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., 60.25.
Run 2
1. (2) Anna Gasser, Austria, (89.50; 95.50) 95.50; 2. (10) Karly Shorr, United States, (45.00; 84.75) 84.75; 3. (11) Jessika Jenson, United States, (34.00; 58.50) 58.50.
Also
4. (4) Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., (60.25; 51.50) 51.50; 5. (3) Silje Norendal, Norway, (31.00; 39.00) 39.00.
Final Ranking
1. Anna Gasser, Austria, (89.50; 95.50) 95.50 (QF); 1. Isabel Derungs, Switzerland, (82.50; 87.50) 87.50 (QF); 2. Jamie Anderson, United States, (93.50) 93.50 (QF); 2. Torah Bright, Australia, (85.25; 80.00) 85.25 (QF); 3. Elena Koenz, Switzerland, (86.25; 38.00) 86.25 (QF); **3. Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., (82.75; 65.00) 82.75 (QF).**
Also
6. Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., (60.25; 51.50) 60.25 (QS).

FREESTYLE SKIING

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
WOMEN'S MOGULS QUALIFYING
Run 1
1. Hannah Kearney, United States, 23.05 (Q); **2. Chloe Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 22.64 (Q); 3. Justine Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 22.28 (Q);** 4. Eliza Outtrim, United States, 21.51 (Q); 5. Perrine Laffont, France, 21.34 (Q).
Also
8. Maxime Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 20.88 (Q); 9. Audrey Robichaud, Quebec City, 20.61 (Q).

St. Louis gets the call to take Stamkos' place

Hockey. Last season's Art Ross trophy winner will replace younger Lightning teammate on Team Canada

Martin St. Louis is going to get a chance to represent his country at the Winter Olympics after all.

Hockey Canada announced Thursday that the 38-year-old Tampa Bay forward will replace injured Lightning teammate Steven Stamkos on Canada's men's hockey team at the Sochi Olympics.

"I heard from Stammer that he wasn't going to go, so I knew it was a possibility," St. Louis told reporters in Tampa on Thursday. "So I guess I was prepared for it."

St. Louis said he felt bad for Stamkos, who tried hard to come back from a broken right tibia he suffered in a Nov. 11 NHL game before being ruled out of Olympic competition by the Lightning's medical staff on Wednesday.

"I think we've got to understand how hard he's tried and worked to put himself in the position he's in and give himself a chance," St. Louis said.

"Obviously he's disappointed and I'm disappointed for him. Stammer's a true professional and he's done everything he can this past month to get back to the Lightning first and hopefully to Team Canada."

St. Louis was considered one of Canada's most surprising snubs when Canada's team was first announced, along with Philadelphia forward Claude Giroux and Pittsburgh forward James Neal.

The Laval, Que., native led the league in points in the 2012-13 shortened season with 17 goals and 43 assists in 48 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

After the snub

10

Martin St. Louis went on a 10-game point streak (eight goals, six assists) for the Lightning starting Jan. 7, the day the team was announced. He said the snub had nothing to do with his increased production, but his play of late might have given him the edge over Claude Giroux and James Neal.

Small guy on big ice

"I think my quickness, my speed ... that's what I'm going to rely on."

Martin St. Louis on playing on the larger international ice surface in Sochi.

Why Marty?

Decision was a matter of right fit

When it was confirmed that Steven Stamkos wouldn't play in the Olympics, Hockey Canada officials weren't really surprised.

"Quite clearly, it's a scenario that we were all, inside and outside, prepared for," coaching consultant Ralph Krueger said Thursday.

In replacing Stamkos with Tampa Bay Lightning teammate Martin St. Louis, Team Canada isn't making a true one-for-one switch. But as Krueger and vice-president of hockey operations Brad Pascall said — before the St. Louis announcement was made — this was about finding the right fit in the absence of Stamkos.

"It's really re-mixing the team and the lineup and then looking at the best possible player for that spot," Krueger said. "They're all excellent players, it's just which strengths do we feel that we need the most."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Martin St. Louis will join the men's Olympic hockey team when it takes on Norway to begin defending its gold medal next Thursday in Sochi. MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Cohon on East Coast CFL team: 'We can do it now'

CFL commissioner Mark Cohon STEVE MILTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Mark Cohon says there is no better time than now to make the Canadian Football League truly coast-to-coast.

The CFL commissioner will be in Halifax on Monday to speak with business leaders and Mayor Mike Savage about the league, and how to make a new outdoor stadium economically viable.

The CFL will never have a team in Halifax without at least a 20,000-seat stadium in place.

"The league has never been stronger. We can do this now," Cohon said in reference to East Coast expansion. "Predecessors who had those conversations, it might have been a pipe dream because the league was never in the place to have these dialogues. Now we are and that's why we are coming out."

In speaking with Metro by phone on Thursday, Cohon notes today's stadiums aren't simply one-trick ponies.

He cites the new stadium built in Ottawa for the expansion Redblacks as a prime example. Besides the stadium itself, he says the facility includes 350,000 square feet of retail space, condominiums, town houses and even parkland.

"They are building a city within a city," he said.

Savage says he'd like to have a final decision on Halifax moving on a new stadium decided by the end of the year.

For that to happen, Cohon knows business leaders in Halifax need to open their pocket books as government won't take it on alone.

In his sales pitch, Cohon talks regularly about the economic impact the stadium will bring, especially with the CFL as the main tenant.

And of course, one can't forget about the pride factor.

"If you had a team in Halifax, almost one million people would be watching each and every game," he said in reference to television coverage. "I think there's a sense of pride (in that). I think there's a sense that this can rally not just Halifax, but an entire region, around something that would be important to the community."

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Focus on what you desire more than anything and there is a great chance you will get it. Your mind is a powerful tool. If you use it to make a request, the universe will respond.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Do you carry on with a difficult task or do you end it and focus on something a bit easier? Only you can decide but it does seem a bit of a waste to give up on it so soon.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The changes you make on the work front over the next few days will have huge effects over the coming months, so think carefully and, if there is any doubt, leave things as they are for the time being.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Whatever kind of news you receive over the next 24 hours, you are advised to keep an open mind. A couple of weeks from now, you will have more important issues to deal with. So, don't take what you hear now too seriously.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to make a decision about a partnership or relationship matter. If you don't, the issue will be taken out of your hands and other people will make the decision for you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's important that you don't let anxieties get the better of you, especially where your health is concerned. You tend to fear the worst for no good reason at this time of year but eventually your fears will fade.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Put the finishing touches on something creative, something that could bring you the recognition you feel you deserve. Even if it doesn't make you rich and famous, it will still be a job well done.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you must get involved in a dispute between friends, make sure you are even-handed. If you give the impression that you favour one side more than the other, you will make things worse than if you had left it alone.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Change is good, change is positive, so whatever else you do today, don't fight the changes that come your way. You were designed by the cosmos try out new things.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you want something enough, you'll find a way to get it but it may cost you a great deal of time and energy. You have to decide whether the sacrifice is worth it.

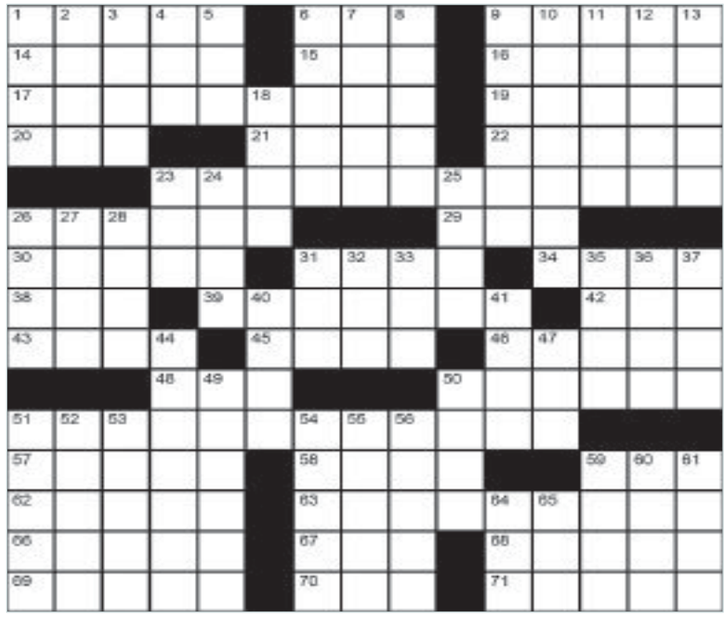
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have this feeling that if you don't act quickly, you'll miss out on something big. Maybe you're right, but is it reall important? The planets urge you to focus on what you've already begun.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What society tells you is important and what your inner voice tells you is important are likely to be different. You should never go against your instincts. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



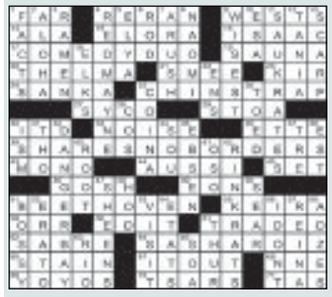
Across

1. Anton Chekhov play, Uncle __
6. The __-i-Noor Diamond
9. Sedimentary rock
14. 'E' of TSE
15. __ pro nobis (Pray for us, in Latin)
16. Carpentry joint, mortise and __
17. "Reach for the Sky (__ __ Mix)" by Maestro Fresh Wes feat. Classified & Blue Rodeo
19. Grain fungus
20. Consumed
21. "Soap" surname
22. Awaken
23. February 7th, 2014 - Winter Olympics: Canada's flag-bearer at the Opening Ceremony, Hayley __
26. Stick to
29. 'Opt' suffix
30. Radiancy
31. Feudal system land
34. Jennifer of "Pride and Prejudice" (1995)
38. Long period
39. 1957: Russian satellite, __ 1
42. __ lamp
43. Field
45. Nullify
46. __ _ spot on the team
48. Baking meas.
50. Cadbury treat, Crispy __
51. Russian pianist/composer, b.1873 - d.1943 [var. sp.]
57. Spry
58. Organic compound
59. Discuss
62. Library item
63. St. Petersburg, Russia: The State __ Museum
66. W. __ Wilson (Canadian entrepreneur)
67. Hi-__ graphics
68. Jean-__ (Montreal metro station)
69. "Rawhide" role Rowdy
70. City in Russia, Ulan-__
71. Thespian's home

Down

1. Singer/songwriter Suzanne
2. Quite often: 2 wds.
3. Egypt's river
4. Greeted, Rocky-style
5. Cash dispenser, commonly
6. Imaging company
7. Pontificate
8. Guitarist, Eddie Van __
9. "Connected" by __ MC's
10. Lorde album: 'Pure __'
11. Canadian pollster, Dr. __ Reid
12. On the lam
13. Insert
18. __ A Sketch (Retro toy)
23. Obi-__ Kenobi
24. Frosts
25. Sound system sort
26. On the briny
27. Thunder god
28. Prong
31. Playfulness
32. "__ be nice if..."
33. Lanois' U2 co-producer
35. Hey-you're-in-my-way device
36. "The Mod Squad" role, __ Hayes
37. "In the Valley of __" (2007)
40. Insect stage
41. Sawing cut
44. Olympics competitor
47. Montreal musician, Melissa __ der Maur
49. Extracts metal from ore
50. Musicals star Mr. Wilkinson
51. Darted past: 2 wds.
52. Ancient marketplace
53. Spotted cat-like mammal
54. Jacket type
55. Marvin Gaye/Tammi Terrell hit: "You're All _ __ to Get By"
56. Scandinavian
59. Bash
60. Worked up
61. Singer, __ _. King
64. Possessive pronoun
65. Ink-on-skin pic

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4		7		1		9	
7								6
		8		2		3		
	6	1		5		9	8	
	5			3			6	
	9	7		8		4	2	
		6		9		2		
1								9
	7		3		2		4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	1	2	8	3	4	5	9
9	3	8	6	5	4	7	1	2
5	2	4	1	7	9	3	6	8
4	1	3	9	6	2	8	7	5
7	6	9	8	4	5	1	2	3
2	8	5	3	1	7	6	9	4
3	4	2	7	9	6	5	8	1
1	5	6	4	2	8	9	3	7
8	9	7	5	3	1	2	4	6

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